



MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

March 29, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: North Mountain Park Nature Center, 620 N. Mountain Ave. Ashland

I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME

In attendance: Kate Jackson (chair), Nancy Appling, Albert Pepe, Kristina Lefever, Libby VanWyhe (staff)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the 2-22-22 meeting

Nancy moves to approve, Albert seconded. All voted in favor

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 minutes)

none

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

none

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Annual report

Bee City USA annual report was completed for 2021. Kristina was primary in completing the report again this time, but she would like to step back from this in future years. Kate will continue to track events, take photos and track participation in BCUA activities. When planning for events and projects, Kristina and Nancy use a shared Google drive file that they can share with the other committee members.

2. Complete Project Goal Setting

a. Under the goal "Supporting and Building Pollinator Friendly Landscapes",

i. Continue the approved pollinator garden program, invite more garden nominations and conduct more site visits.

Nancy will continue to identify and nominate new pollinator gardens as she comes across them in the community.

Kristina and Nancy will continue to visit and approve pollinator gardens. When onboarding new gardens, they will look at a flammability and fire-wise dimension as well.

More outreach activities are necessary to increase the number of gardens.

Albert suggests the committee resume tabling at the Tuesday farmer's market. If needed, Libby offered that they could borrow a canopy from NMP.

Kate will connect with Albert about the schedule for farmer's market tabling.

To increase awareness of the Approved Pollinator Garden Program and invite more

garden participation, Kristina will continue outreach activities to HOAs.

b. Under the goal "Affecting Systems Policies and Organizational Change"

Note: This goal is not as active, currently, because of the variety of unrelated challenges decision makers are currently facing. The Neonicotinoid resolution appears to be on hold. We are waiting for Rachel get back to us about the next steps in the Neonicotinoid resolution adoption.

Libby will inquire about whether the Neonicotinoid resolution is still feasible in the current climate, and whether the ball is the committee's court or Park's.

i. Conduct research into land management activities in our town including: plant lists, lawns and maintenance practices. Frame this research as potential Capstone projects.

Kate will meet with Leslie to see if there are students who would be willing to help us investigate the IMP strategies at SOU and the City. Keep the possibility of working with a Capstone project open, to research and affect change about IPM and neonic use.

c. Under the goal "Educating About Pollinators and Their Conservation"

i. Prepare ourselves to offer the Pollinator Garden Tour with a Firewise focus in 2023. Develop the Tour materials in advance, to save on Workloads in early 2023.

As a preliminary step, we need to get a better idea of what Charise's landscaping recommendations are, and whether they are compatible with the goal of pollinator friendly landscapes. Firewise recommendations may be a hard sell to our current gardeners, so we need to educate ourselves first.

Members of the committee would like Charise to provide a tour of appropriately Firewise landscapes.

We would also like to establish a collaborative workgroup to that includes members of Bee City USA Ashland, members of the Wildfire Safety Commission, and a landscape architect (from SOLA or SOU).

Over the next six months, this work group would meet to discuss the compatibility of Firewise and pollinator recommendations. Can a landscape architect synthesize these goals in a theoretical landscaping plan?

Depending on the results of this coordinated effort, we will determine the suitability of synthesizing Firewise recommendations into the 2023 Pollinator Tour.

Begin planning the next Pollinator Garden Tour with (or without) Firewise focus. Develop the tour materials in advance to improve workloads in 2023.

Note: We discussed providing input and collaboration on Charisse's plant database to identify pollinator and drought tolerant plants.

The subcommittee concluded that we may not be the best people to provide expert consultation in this research project. The Bee City Subcommittee has to narrow down the projects we bite off for 2022, and none of the committee members have the bandwidth to help with this. If Charisse wants citation-worthy input, there may be others better suited.

We will get in touch with Charisse and suggest that Susie Savoie, Christy Mergenthaler, Rachel Werling, the Xerces Society, Gail Langeletto of Master Gardeners in Corvallis, and OSU Extension.

d. The projects currently adopted by the subcommittee are:

i. **Continue the Approved Pollinator Garden Program and conduct outreach efforts to encourage more participation and new approved gardens.**

- ii. Collaborate with SOU Capstone students to research land management activities and IPM strategies at SOU and the within the City.
- iii. Convene a workgroup to discuss compatibility of Firewise and pollinator-friendly goals. Prepare for the 2023 tour and assess the feasibility of conducting it with a Firewise focus.

3. East Main Park Updates

We did not have time to address this topic.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Soliciting a new committee member.

- Committee members will talk to their friends and contacts to see if anyone wants to join the subcommittee.
- Leslie will solicit for a SOU student from the pollinator club to become a full member of the subcommittee.

2. Committee member updates.

Kate is going to be tabling with the Conservation Commission for Earth Day, on April 23. Their focus will be about water conservation and landscaping with natives for. Albert is willing to help.

Kristina is planning a presentation to Mountain Meadows, inspiring people to build (and approve) pollinator gardens. Kristina also connected with a representative of the Oak Knoll landscaping committee.

3. Pollinator Week proclamation.

In the past, we have submitted standard language from Bee City USA to be used as the proclamation.

- Kate is going to initiate a conversation with the mayor, to talk about the proclamation and to see if we can get the Bee City USA subcommittee on the City Council's look-ahead.

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Volunteer hours tracking

- Libby requests that all subcommittee members email her with the number of hours they've spent volunteering for Bee City USA and associate projects, since the first of the year.

2. Riverwalk Polinator Garden: there will be a meeting coming up April 16th, 9am.

3. Grove Pollinator Garden: update on our obligations

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Next meeting: late June. Libby requests that we conduct the next meeting over zoom, and possibly alternate between in-person and zoom meetings.

- Kate will help pick a time for the next meeting.
- Libby will ensure that the selected meeting date ends up on the calendar and that all members are invited to the calendar event.

Action Items

- Kate will connect with Albert about the schedule for farmer's market tabling.
- Kristina will continue her outreach activities to HOAs, in order to increase awareness of the Approved Pollinator Garden program and invite more garden participation.
- Libby will inquire about whether the Neonicotinoid resolution is still feasible in the current climate, and whether the ball is the committee's court or Park's.
- Kate will meet with Leslie to see if there are students who would be willing to help us investigate the IMP strategies at SOU and the City. Keep the possibility of working with a Capstone project open, to research and affect change about IPM and neonic use.
- Members of the committee would like Charise to provide a tour of appropriately Firewise landscapes.
- We would also like to establish a collaborative workgroup to that includes members of Bee City USA Ashland, members of the Wildfire Safety Commission, and a landscape architect (from SOLA or SOU). Over the next six months, this work group would meet to discuss the compatibility of Firewise and pollinator recommendations.
- We will get in touch with Charisse and suggest others to provide input on the plant database. Susie Savoie, Christy Mergenthaler, Rachel Werling, the Xerces Society, Gail Langeletto of Master Gardeners in Corvallis, and OSU Extension.
- Committee members will talk to their friends and contacts to see if anyone wants to join the subcommittee.
- Leslie will solicit for a SOU student from the pollinator club to become a full member of the subcommittee.
- Kate is going to initiate a conversation with the mayor, to talk about the proclamation and to see if we can get the Bee City USA subcommittee on the City Council's look-ahead.
- Libby requests that all subcommittee members email her with the number of hours they've spent volunteering for Bee City USA and associate projects, since the first of the year.
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